

Commons: Present—Sir E. N. Burton, M.P., in the chair; and the Hon. F. Byng, Dr. Baekland, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Leslie, Mr. E. Chadwick, Mr. R. L. Jones, Mr. Bullar, Mr. T. Puckle, Mr. T. I. Broderip, and Dr. Southwood Smith.

The clerk (Mr. Hertalet) reported that the balances in the hands of several of the divisions of sewers had been deposited in the Union Bank of London, and the following accounts in reference to them were laid before the court:—

WESTMINSTER DIVISION.	
Balance left in hands of Drummond and Co.	£2,793 1 9
Payments made on the 16th and 23rd of December	1,550 0 0
Leaving	£2,793 1 9

TOWER HAMLETS DIVISION.	
Balance left in hand	£13,171 1 6
Payments	1,413 19 11
Leaving	£10,757 1 7

BOLBORN AND FINSBURY DIVISION.	
Balance left in hand	£4,115 4 8
Payments	1,730 19 11
Leaving	£2,384 4 8

STREET AND KENT DIVISION.	
Balance left in hand	£13,261 1 1
Payments	8,094 11 0
Leaving	£5,166 11 7

ST. KATHARINE'S DIVISION.

In answer to the return required from this division, it was stated that the expenses were returned as nil, the assets were nil, that they were quite unable to say when a court had been held, but that the clerk had sent in a claim of 40*l.* as a compensation for the loss of his situation, by the establishment of the new commission. This report created considerable amusement in the court, one of the commissioners remarking, that he supposed the 40*l.* was required as a compensation to the clerk for doing nothing but receiving his salary. The accounts of the other divisions will be brought forward at the next court.

In answer to a question from Mr. Leslie, Mr. Stable stated, that the aggregate balance in hand, when the whole of the accounts should be made up, would be 30,086*l.*

Several accounts for payment were presented from the Poplar division, one of which was for "Expenses of court on the 29th of October, 19*l.*"—Mr. Leslie wished to know from Mr. Hertalet the meaning of this item.—Mr. Hertalet said he could not say what it really meant, as Mr. Baker, the clerk, had sent in no voucher for this sum, and Mr. Baker was not in attendance.

Mr. Leslie—Why, there can be no doubt that the charge is for a dinner.

It was then suggested and adopted, that this item be struck off the account until such time as a voucher is produced for the amount.

A report from the committee for general purposes was read, and the following resolutions were recommended for adoption by the court, and adopted:—

"That in reference to a former order, that an account be prepared of the total expenditure of the commissions for the three years therein mentioned, and that there be shown therein the average cost of management as compared with the expenditure in each commission. (In reference to the above resolution, the court, on the motion of Mr. E. Chadwick, added the words, "with the law charges, specifying the names of the solicitors by whom such respective sums had been received.")

"That it is recommended to the court the committee have power to call in the assistance of a public accountant, if necessary, for the purpose of systematizing and simplifying the accounts of the several commissions."

"That it is recommended by the court that, in examining the sewers for the purpose of flushing, the surveyors, by the clerks of the works, do take note of the state of the sewers, and in respect to the accumulation of deposit in cesspools."

"That it is recommended to the court that measures be taken by the surveyors to carry out, in the several districts of sewers, a systematic gauging of water in the sewers in different classes of streets where all the houses at present drain into the sewers."

Mr. Chadwick then moved—"That Sir E. Burton, Dr. Southwood Smith, Dr. Arnott, Sir James Clark, and the Rev. W. Stone, be added to the committee for General Purposes, with power to add to their number."—Mr. Leslie moved that it be an open committee.—Sir E. Burton inquired whether the hon. commissioner meant it to be open to the public.—Mr. Leslie dissented from this, but his wish was that it should be open to the whole of the commissioners.—The Rev. W. Stone was opposed to an open committee, as any member of the court might come in and occupy the time of the committee on a point perhaps already decided. After some discussion, the consideration of the question was deferred.

New Books.

Photography, a Popular Treatise designed to convey correct General Information concerning the discoveries of Messrs. Daguerre, Talbot, and others. By an AMATEUR. Lumley, Chancery-lane.

THIS is a very clear and interesting account of the steps which have led to photography, as we now know it, and of the rationale of the processes, originally read by Mr. Joseph Ellis before the Literary and Scientific Institution of Brighton. Niepce, Talbot, Daguerre, and Claudet have all justice done to them. The Daguerreotype process may be thus briefly described:—A piece of copper, plated with silver, is first carefully cleaned and highly polished; it is then coated by the vapour of iodine, and afterwards exposed to that of chlorine or bromine; the proper focus of the object having been obtained, the plate is in darkness inserted in the place of the ground-glass screen of a camera-obscure; the image of the camera is opened to admit the image, for a time decided by preceding experiments, and then closed; the plate is removed (still excluded from light) and placed in a box with mercury slightly heated to expedite volatilization, until the picture, which before would not have been perceptible, is fully and clearly developed; finally, the type-invested surface is subjected to the solution of hyposulphite of soda, for the removal of iodine, so that there shall remain upon the plate only the mercury which represents the image. The picture is formed of molecules of mercury of inconceivable minuteness, which with inimitable nicety have, by volatilization and some peculiar attraction, attached themselves in various degrees to those parts of the plate whereon the light has fallen. Consisting thus of atoms more minute than the down on an insect's wing, the slightest touch would destroy its finish, if it were not set. This is effected by boiling upon the tablet a solution of hydrosulphite of soda and gold, whereby a transparent coating of gold is precipitated over the picture.

Of the possibility of *electrotyping* the images thus produced,—of depositing, by means of electricity, atoms of copper or other metal so inconceivably minute that every molecule of the volatilized mercury, of which that image is formed, yields its impress and gives us a counterpart in solid metal, we have already spoken as a marvellous result of science.

The practical application of photography has to be carried much further than has yet been done. Mr. Ellis's little book, will be found very interesting.

A Manual of Gothic Mouldings: illustrated by nearly 600 examples. By F. A. PALRY, M.A. Second edition. Van Voorst, Paternoster-row.

ON the first appearance of this work we mentioned it with much commendation, as an important addition to the means of obtaining a knowledge of Gothic architecture already at the command of the student. In this new issue the author has made considerable improvements: woodcuts are introduced to elucidate the text, and five plates of mouldings have been added to the previous sixteen.

Miscellaneous.

FREE EXHIBITION.—The Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Manufactures have prepared a free exhibition of specimens, illustrating the progress of lithography in England, comprising the highest works of art by the most eminent artists and lithographers, and free tickets of admission may be had of all members of the society, and of Mr. Mortlock, 250, Oxford-street; Mr. Phillips, 359, Oxford-street; Mr. White, 210, Regent-street; Messrs. Graves, 6, Pall-mall; Messrs. Colnaghi, 13, Pall-mall East; Mr. Cundell, 12, Old Bond-street; Mr. Pickering, 177, Piccadilly; Mr. Milledge, 65, Fleet-street; Messrs. Greensill, 148, Strand; Mr. Tenant, 149, Strand; Mr. Bell, 186, Strand; Messrs. Smith and Elder, Cornhill; and Mr. Moon, Threadneedle-street. &c. The exhibition is open every day from ten till four, and will close on the 8th.

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of engine-sheds and workshops at Bristol, for the Midland Railway Company; the erection of house, coach-house, stable, &c., at Bedford; also for a supply of timber of various kinds, larch sleepers, oak keys and pine, malleable iron, railway keys, nails, cast-iron wheels, chairs, castings, tubes, and brass, copper, and tin, for Carlisle and Newcastle Railway Company.

A SANITARY SONG.—*The Man in the Moon* is singing to the apathetic and the obstinate. Hear him:—

"Close your eyelids and fold your arms
Good easy people about.
In filth and stench, from sewer and trench,
Have your nap securely out.
Cram your dead into reeking vaults,
As herrings are crammed in barrels,
Then chuck by jowl, with the dead men folk!
Go on with your—
Only—a plague may be coming;
Only—beware of the knells
Which a livid grisly phantom
May ring on your own door bells."

"Leave court and alley to stagnate—
Never attempt a cure—
Keep the air stifling, keep it health rifling—
Never dig drain or sewer.
Rotlike, rotting, rotten,
Leave all things to hang as they grow;
Have your sixpenny balls in those festive halls,
Where the dead lie in coffins below."

Only—a plague may be coming;
Only—beware of the knells
Which a livid grisly phantom
May ring on your own door bells."

The Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes, held their annual meeting last week, at the offices, Coleman-street, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors, and other business. Sir Ralph Howard took the chair, and Lord Robert Grosvenor and others addressed the meeting. Very few of the shareholders were present. The secretary said, in answer to some questions, that 17*l.* 10*s.* per share had been paid up on the 20*l.* shares; that when the remainder should be paid up, and the buildings finished, about 3,000*l.* would remain, which would be sufficient to enable the society to build a dormitory to accommodate 150 persons. He added, that the sum now in arrear was 1,420*l.* and that the gross annual income from the buildings, when tenanted, had been calculated at 1,527*l.* 10*s.*

POTSDAM.—The newly-built "Friedenskirche" (Church of Peace), near Sanssouci, is a building in the Byzantine style, with a detached tower, which is to be built very high; it was planned by Persius, and is to be executed by Arnim, under the direction of Stüler. The ceiling is open, and the interior is painted in compartments. The altar-niche, which is semi-circular and adorned to a great height with marble, is extremely expressive; the arched dome is decorated with an ancient mosaic from an old Italian church, representing our "Saviour surrounded by the Evangelists," in the Byzantine taste on a gold ground. This church, of a beautiful style of architecture, is picturesquely seated on a little lake.—*Art-Union Journal.*

THE IRON TRADE.—The South Staffordshire masters, thinking it of no use longer deceiving themselves into the idea that the nominal price of 5*l.* for forged pig-iron is a real price, have at length decided on formally announcing what every one knew already, that an "immense reduction" has "just taken place;" the actual price, with perhaps a little nominality about it even yet, being now declared to be 3*l.* 10*s.*

COMPETITION.—Designs for a literary institution for the Odd Fellows, M. U., have been advertised for at a premium of 30*l.* for the most approved, and 15*l.* for the second best, unless the architect be employed.

RAILWAY NEWS VENDORS.—Sir: The proper thing would be for railway companies to reserve the privilege of selling newspapers, to old respected or injured servants. I must disagree with you on the subject. A host of vendors, when one will do, is against true economy, and is also a nuisance. For themselves, such a method of living as those poor competing newsvendors follow, is, I believe, most dangerous to their eternal welfare. Every thing is against their moral improvement.—*yu.*